GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:46
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Promotion of Art and Culture
Dhurve Smt. Jyoti

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the major initiatives taken to promote art and culture in the country;

(b) whether the Government has decided to accord priority in the fields of arts, music, dance and literature and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal for providing assistance to the active groups engaged in the field of music and also promote the significance of culture and language amongst the youth in the recent years and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. â€ *46 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 06.02.2017.

(a) & (b): Promotion of Art and Culture is a continuous process and is undertaken through various schemes, festivals, training programmes, seminars, workshops, drama performances, exhibitions etc. organized across the country. In the mid 1980s, Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) were set-up by the government with a view to develop the various folk art and culture of various regions and also to set up mechanism for preservation and promotion of various elements of our rich cultural heritage. The ZCCs were required to concentrate on the folk arts, dance and music. The mandate behind setting up the ZCCs was to bind the nation culturally while retaining the individuality of the regions that comprise them.

In addition, various autonomous organizations under the administrative control of the M/o Culture have performed inter alia, the following functions:-

(i) Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) has been functioning as the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, preserving and promoting the vast intangible heritage of the India's diverse culture express in forms of music, dance and drama.

(ii) Apart from its teaching activities, National School of Drama (NSD) through its repertory and Theatre-in-Education Companies takes various initiatives to promote Indian culture by performing plays for public in various parts of the country.

(iii) Sahitya Akademi (SA) is engaged in preserving, promoting and enriching the literature of India. To this end the Akademi publishes large volumes of material, confers a number of awards and grants, conducts numerous programmes, seminars, workshops, lectures, symposia, readings, discussions and performances in all the 24 languages recognized by it.

(iv) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) undertakes various activities for promotion and dissemination educationally of Arts and Culture in the country.

(v) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is working to present Indian Arts and Culture in its totality. Two major Projects titled "Vedic Heritage Portal" and "National Culture for Audio-visual Archives", under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture have been initiated to preserve and present the Indian tradition, available in Audiovisual and Literary forms.

(vi) Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) has been promoting creative endeavours of Indian artists and bringing their arts closer to a large number of audience; thereby playing an important role in defining and redefining the sensibility of India's visual culture.

(vii) Kalakshetra Foundation (KF) has been carrying out various activities for promotion and dissemination of knowledge on Bharatanatyam, Carnatic Music, Visual Arts and crafts, etc.

(c)&(d):Ministry of Culture administers various cultural schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the individual/ groups, State Governments, State sponsored bodies, Universities, local bodies and other Government approved agencies including reputed (not-for profit) cultural organizations, based on the proposals/applications received from them.

A number of groups being represented by youth of India are being supported by the Sangeet Natak Akademi by way of sanction of grants and giving them opportunities to perform in the different programmes of the Akademi under Akademi's Grant-in-aid schemes and other schemes.